



DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Approved Minutes
Dixie Shorefront
Accommodation Review Committee
Public Meeting #3

Tuesday, May 6, 2008
St. Paul Secondary School
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Present:

E. McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools
J. Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations
T. Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Department
E. Irvine, Planner, City of Mississauga
ARC Committee Members - Queen of Heaven
St. Dominic
St. Edmund
St. James
St. Timothy

Staff:

J. Tzventarny, Planner, Planning Department
R. Bonifacio, Recorder- Secretary, Planning Department

ROUTINE MATTERS

Chairperson and title, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. **Introduction & Welcome & Opening Prayer**

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools invited attendees to join her in the opening prayer and thanked all for attending the meeting. The handout for the meeting was reviewed.

2. **Community Meeting #2**

T. Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Gave brief overview of Community Meeting #2

- Public Meeting #2 held on April 1, 2008 at St. Paul Secondary School
- Role of the Trustees
- Accommodation Options
- Transportation
- Questions from the community

Advised that all material related to all the past ARC meetings and Public Meetings have been posted on the Board's website at www.dpcdsb.org

- **ARC Meeting #1** – October 4, 2007
- **ARC Meeting #2** – October 25, 2007
- **ARC Meeting #3** – November 21, 2007
- **ARC Meeting #4** – February 27, 2008
- **ARC Meeting #5** – April 30, 2008

- **Public Meeting #1** – February 5, 2008
- **Public Meeting #2** – April 1, 2008

The ARC committee members met on April 30, 2008 to review refine/reduce the number of options based on the information, feed back and discussions to date. The ARC agreed to present the following six options.

Status Quo and 5 consolidation options that the ARC has recommended moving forward.

<p><u>Status Quo</u></p> <p><u>OPTION 4 - CLOSE ST. JAMES</u> Move St. James (All) to St. Dominic</p> <p><u>OPTION 5 - CLOSE ST. JAMES</u> Move St. James (All) to Queen of Heaven</p> <p><u>OPTION 6 - CLOSE ST. DOMINIC</u> Move St. Dominic (All) to St. James</p> <p><u>OPTION 7 - CLOSE ST. DOMINIC</u> Move St. Dominic (All) to Queen of Heaven</p> <p><u>OPTION 8 - CLOSE ST. DOMINIC</u> Move St. Dominic (All) to St. Timothy</p>

The power-point presentation for tonight's meeting, with all numbers and maps for options are posted on the board website at the following link:

http://www.dpedsb.org/NR/rdonlyres/43D3CF43-312C-4C04-8208-D69FAFBCCC49/29444/DIXIEARCPM3_PRESENTATIONMay62008.pdf

2. Accommodation Options

- Enrolments
- Transportation
- Financial

T. Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept, reviewed the financial impact of the 5 options being considered. The financial impacts are based on current Ministry of Education grants rates and current Board staffing requirements. The financial considerations including: Principal & Vice Principal salaries, Secretary salaries, Supplies, Custodial Staff salaries, School operations, Utilities & maintenance, Transportation, Revenue loss for Community Use of Schools and Leases on school equipment (i.e. laptops, photocopiers, printers, etc.).

Basic findings are:

- the movement of students would not see any real change to the costs for the teachers,
- potential savings in principal, secretarial and custodial staff
- At the larger schools, there may be increase due to requirements for a V.P., secretarial staff.

- there is an increase in transportation costs for each option
- there is a reduction in operational and maintenance costs
- there is a reduction in grants to the board in several areas
- there is a cost savings with each option

Financial Impact Summary for the Options:

Option 4 Close St. James	Loss of Grant	Savings on Expenditures	Net Savings
Staffing	(\$119,135)	\$221,299	\$102,165
School Operations	(\$59,611)	\$169,406	\$109,795
Transportation	\$0	(\$13,500)	(\$13,500)
Other	(\$2,050)	\$2,000	(\$50)
TOTAL	(\$180,796)	\$379,205	\$198,409

Option 5 Close St. James	Loss of Grant	Savings on Expenditures	Net Savings
Staffing	(\$85,166)	\$142,270	\$57,105
School Operations	(\$92,335)	\$169,406	\$77,071
Transportation	\$0	(\$13,500)	(\$13,500)
Other	(\$2,050)	\$2,000	(\$50)
TOTAL	(\$179,551)	\$300,176	\$120,625

Option 6 Close St. Dominic	Loss of Grant	Savings on Expenditures	Net Savings
Staffing	(\$117,622)	\$212,999	\$95,377
School Operations	(\$59,611)	\$140,930	\$81,319
Transportation	\$0	(\$24,000)	(\$24,000)
Other	(\$2,554)	\$2,000	(\$554)
TOTAL	(\$179,787)	\$331,929	\$152,141

Option 7 Close St. Dominic	Loss of Grant	Savings on Expenditures	Net Savings
Staffing	(\$28,758)	\$108,318	\$79,560
School Operations	(\$108,737)	\$140,930	\$32,193
Transportation	\$0	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)
Other	(\$2,554)	\$2,000	(\$554)
TOTAL	(\$140,049)	\$211,248	\$71,199

Option 8 Close St. Dominic	Loss of Grant	Savings on Expenditures	Net Savings
Staffing	(\$16,234)	\$108,318	\$92,084
School Operations	(\$24,714)	\$140,930	\$116,216
Transportation	\$0	(\$46,000)	(\$46,000)
Other	(\$2,554)	\$2,000	(\$554)
TOTAL	(\$43,503)	\$205,248	\$161,745

4. Next Steps

Thane Munn, Senior-Planner

Reviewed:

Future Public Meetings

- Public Meeting #4 – May 22, 2008
(Meeting to be held at St. Paul Secondary School @ 7pm)
- ARC prepares recommendation report to the Board of Trustees – Fall 2008
- Staff prepares recommendation report to the Board of Trustees – Fall 2008
- Board to make decision in Fall 2008
- Notice of meeting date will be given 60 days prior to meeting

Implementation Timeline

- Follows Board Decision in Fall 2008
- Possible School Closure – June 2009
- Students relocated – September 2009

5. Questions Period

Parents, students and community members had the opportunity to express their concerns and ask questions. Board staff responded to the questions and concerns to the best of their knowledge and advised that they would review the questions in preparation for the next Public Meeting.

1. St. Dominic - Parent

Question:

- Refers Option 6 and 7 of the presentation
were asked to explain transportation distances again
- the Board considers safety in assessing walking routes and how does the Board calculate the routes, is it the direct route, walking route, we had a Grade 7 approximate age 11 to 12 years old walk from home to St. James , the time took 39 minutes travel time and in bad weather 120 minutes 30% of the time we have bad weather, winter time and snow days time would even be higher
- with the current transportation guidelines the Board is not being competitive with the public board, need to take into consideration about safety, bussing and etc
- can Trustees combine choices from ARC and close 1, 2 schools
- will pull child from DPCDSB, go to Peel

Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

- walking distance of these options are no different for the criteria of any children in the DPCDSB in grade 7 & 8
- any children from grade JK to 8 are subject to the same criteria
- Peel board – same as this board, no different criteria for the ARC review area
- Trustees take many things into consideration when making a decision
- not bound by the ARC or staff decision
- Can't change the walking distance board wide tonight, possible that the issue with the transportation criteria is a bigger issue with the board

2. St. Dominic - Parent

Question/Comment:

- schools can't accommodate enrolment from St. Dominic
- angry that there are more options for St. Dominic then for St. James

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- schools can accommodate, may mean a portable
- explains that there are more logical extensions to St. Dominic boundary

3. St. Dominic - Parent

Question:

- real estate agent – doesn't agree with enrolment projections
- asked how many children Grade 7 & 8 walk now in the board, is it in the hundreds
- Option 8 why is crossing the QEW different than crossing the railroad

Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

- numbers is in the thousands, every Grade 7 & 8 under the distance walks.
- the Transportation Dept. will bus if the Board determines that the route is unsafe.

4. St. James - Parent

Question:

- will you share your decision making criteria
- how confident are you in your enrolment projections – has been used recently to do construction and now being used to close schools

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- no specific criteria, ARC, Trustees will have all information how each interprets, uses the information, is specific to the individual
- no additional pupil places created, Queen of Heaven/St. Timothy were replacement schools.

5. St. Dominic - Parent

Question:

- best case scenario is saving \$198,000 is it worth it?
- Flex boundary, are they included in the projections

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- yes, flex students are included in the projections

6. St. James - Parent

Question:

- flex boundary, 20% , is it part of factor of costing including schools
- how is flex process handled, she was told no flex boundary

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- the flex students are included in the financial analysis
- approximately 50% of the flex students attending St. Dominic are from the Queen of Heaven and St. James areas
- there is a Board approved flex boundary process, decisions are made by the school principals

7. St. Dominic - Parent

Comment:

- what does a school near a church mean about faith, about structure of the catholic systems
- neighbors getting older, therefore homes will come available to families
- what value do we have for children to walk to church , St. Dominic church is a 5 minute walk, wonderful faith base, close to the children
- what dollar value do we put on that
- what are we saying to children by closing the school to the nearest church
- for me I'm 2 streets away from the school and church and that is why I purchased my home here

8. St. James - Parent

Question:

- why are we looking to close schools? Is it only financial?
- why isn't the physical condition of the schools being considered as part of process?
- St. Dominic repairs compared to St. James which is in good condition
- why aren't costs to keep school open for next 5 years monitored

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- Board has many reasons, financial is only one of considerations

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools

- small schools do have disadvantages, resources are taken from all schools in one area to subsidize smaller schools, but may not be done in the future, possibility of triple grades.

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

Capital cost not a major factor in any of the options – board does monitor on-going capital requirements

- we don't have a detailed list for what is needed for all schools – we look at individual request every year.

9. St. Dominic - Parent

Question:

- are there any criteria the ARC will consider that have not been presented transportation, finances, etc

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- all info is on website, we have tried to present information in a logical order
- many different aspects must be considered and much information was put together to form the ARC binder. It shows the process step by step and attendees have been encouraged to review information. The information is accessible on the website.

10. St. Dominic - Parent

Question and Comment:

- St. Mary was consolidated years ago, what was the impact of this.
- bussing – decisions to buy houses were made to be close to schools by some
- can we get safe walking routes? show us maps.

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- all of St. Mary went to St. Luke, one small piece west of Hurontario St. was added to St. James

11. St. Dominic - Parent

Comment/Question:

- impression that board is more worried about numbers, not students
- what is impact on children/is there data on impact of moving students
- success rate, like EQAO scores

Response:

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools

- Big or small school in our Board, have pro and cons
- Resources are taken from larger schools to assist smaller schools

12. St. James - Parent

Question:

- can this happen again in 5 years?
- when does 5 years start 2006, 2009

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- Ministry of Education suggest not reviewing school for 5 years, only a suggestion
- Board does not have a timeframe in its process

13. St. Dominic – Parent

Comment:

- As Trustees will get information on public meeting through meeting minutes, I would make the following statement:
To Trustees, the process is putting Catholic education at risk in the community need to support Catholic education especially with 2 schools, potentially closing

14. St. Dominic – Parent

Comments

- nobody wants any schools to close, community prefers small schools
- how can we limit the burden on students?
- having centrally located schools puts less pressure, less travel involved
- Enrolments will stabilize

15. Rate Payer/Resident

Question and Comment:

- what has been done about amalgamating with the Peel Board
- why this process, what is costs of the ARC review?
- \$200,000 saving is very small for impact on students and community

Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

- we were not made aware of the Peel Board starting School Review until last week
- each board has it own criteria,
- the DPCDSB has Ministry guidelines and the Board approved Pupil Accommodation Review policy and process
- We will consider it if asked to participate in discussion with any other board
- In our Board we already have co-sharing school – St. Cecilia
- Board has not approached the Peel Board. We are at different stages in ARC process
- savings are for one year only
- the savings will accumulate and increase as each year passes

Conclusion

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools, thanked all for attending the meeting. If any one has any questions/comments that they would like to address to the ARC committee via Public Meeting, Parent Council, or email planning@dpcdsb.org or school administration.

Confirmation of next meetings

- ARC Meeting No. 6 – Monday, May 12, 2008 @ St. Timothy Elementary
- Public Meeting No. 4 – Thursday, May 22, 2008 at St. Paul SS

All ARC materials can be viewed on the Board’s website: www.dpcdsb.org
Click on “School Closures Review”

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p. m.

Approximately 86 Parents, students and community members were in attendance of the Public Meeting #3

Queen of Heaven	2
St. Dominic	52
St. Edmund	1
St. James	21
St. Timothy	1
Other	<u>9</u>
	86

R. Bonifacio, Recorder- Secretary, Planning Department, DPCDSB